MARVEL LEGACY

87

GENERATION X®

STRAIN
PINNA
SOBREIRO

JUBILEE
JUBILATION LEE

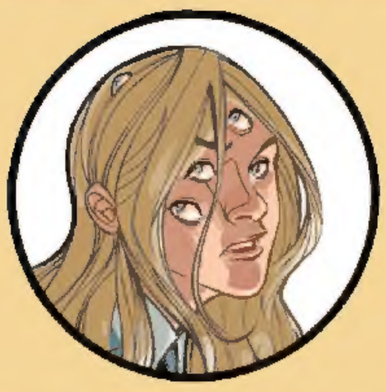
BLING!
ROXY WASHINGTON

KID OMEGA
QUENTIN QUIRE

NATURE GIRL
LIN LI

MORPH
BENJAMIN DEEDS

HINDSIGHT
NATHANIEL CARVER



EYE-BOY
TREVOR HAWKINS

GENERATION X

WHEN CHARLES XAVIER FOUNDED THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, HE DID IT WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MENTORING YOUNG MUTANTS IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS TO BETTER A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM. NOW, AS FORMER STUDENT KITTY PRYDE TAKES CHARGE AS HEADMISTRESS, XAVIER'S DREAM LIVES ON FOR A NEW GENERATION...

PREVIOUSLY IN *GENERATION X...*

FORMER X-MAN MONET ST. CROIX HAS BEEN MERGED WITH THE VAMPIRIC PERSONA OF HER EVIL BROTHER, EMPLATE, FOR MONTHS. AFTER WEEKS OF FEEDING OFF THE STUDENTS AND PEDESTRIANS IN CENTRAL PARK, MONET OUTRIGHT ATTACKED THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR MUTANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. JUBILEE (XAVIER INSTITUTE TEACHER AND FORMER TEAMMATE OF MONET'S) INTERVENED, BUT WAS OUTMATCHED UNTIL HER STUDENT QUENTIN QUIRE USED THE LAST OF HIS GODLIKE PHOENIX FORCE POWERS TO REIGNITE JUBILEE'S X-GENE!

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XAVIER INSTITUTE. CENTRAL PARK.

MOMENTS AFTER AN INTENSE TRAUMA, THERE'S THIS THING YOUR BRAIN DOES TO PROTECT ITSELF, AND THAT'S TO *FORGET.*

BUT I REMEMBER EVERYTHING. MONET. LOSING MY AMULET. *I WAS ON FIRE. DYING--*

SO HOW AM I STILL HERE?

AND HOW DO I HAVE MY *FIREWORKS POWERS?* IT'S MAKING MY HEART RACE SO FAST AND--

WAIT. *I CAN FEEL MY HEART BEATING.* THAT MEANS...

JUBILEE!

LIN? TREVOR-- *SHOGO?!*

OH, GOD, DID HE SEE--

OH, NO! NO! I WAS READY THIS TIME AND--

I MEAN, I WASN'T *READY* READY, I WAS JUST--

YOU'RE ALIVE.

THE *PHOENIX.* IT MADE YOU A MUTANT AGAIN.

QUENTIN!

STOP ANTAGONIZING M-PLATE!

YOU'RE LUCKY I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT OR I'D--

AHHHHHHHHH!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, YOU LITTLE MISSHAPEN KEWPIE DOLL.

MONET, PUT THE KID DOWN.

WHO YOU CALLIN' A KID-- AHHHHH!

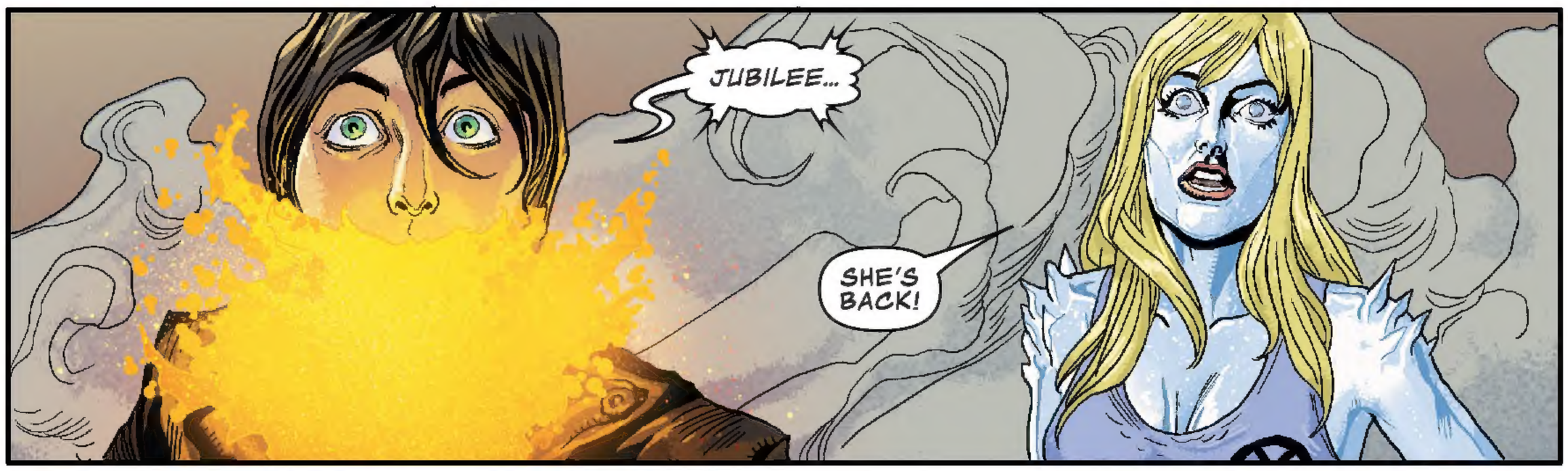
OR WHAT, CHAMBER?

BOOM

QUENTIN, BEFORE YOU SAY *ANYTHING* ABOUT HOW MUCH CRAP I GAVE YOU FOR BLOWING DOWN A WALL...

...IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD MY POWERS--

--AND I FORGOT HOW HARD THEY ARE TO REGULATE WHEN I'M *PISSED OFF.*


JUBILEE...
SHE'S BACK!

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE DOING WITH YOUR FIRE BIRD, YOU BRAT.
HRK!

BHOOM
NO!
TOO BAD YOUR SPARKLES ARE AS USELESS AS EVER.
COME CLOSER AND SAY THAT TO MY FACE, WHY DON'T YOU?

WHAT THE HELL, MONET DIDN'T EVEN *TRY* STEALING QUENTIN'S POWERS.

IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS *MINE*...

IT'S WHY I BAITED HER INTO GRABBING ME.

NATHANIEL! ARE YOU OKAY?

AS LONG AS YOU ARE, I'M GOOD.

EMPLATE'S KEEPING MONET FROM TOUCHING ANYONE WHILE SHE HAS MY POWER--

--BECAUSE WHEN SHE PSYCHOMETRICALLY CONNECTS WITH SOMEONE ELSE, *IT WEAKENS EMPLATE'S LINK WITH MONET*--

SO IF WE GRAB HER, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEPARATE THEM.

QUENTIN, YOU'VE GOTTA SEND A PSYCHIC MESSAGE TO JUBIL--

CAN'T.

I KNOW I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE MVP, BUT SACRIFICING MY PHOENIX SHARD TOOK MORE OUTTA ME THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

MY POWERS AREN'T WORKING.

YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

IF YOU'RE THINKING *"IT'S ON US"* AND *"WE'RE SCREWED"*--

--THEN, YEAH.

PYU PYU

PYU PYU PYU

FWOOSH

WHAT'S THIS?

SHING

ROXY, NO!

KIND OF A *PATHETIC ATTEMPT*, DON'T YOU THINK?

M-MORE LIKE...

:GASP:

...A *DISTRACTION.*

I'M ACTUALLY BEHIND YOU, MONET.

AH!

IZZZZZPT

>GASP!<

JUBILEE, YOU HAVE TO TOUCH HER!

SHE HAS NATHANIEL'S PSYCHOMETRY POWER!

>TOO-WHEEEEET<

WHY CAN'T--

WHY CAN'T I BREATHE?!

CAW! CAW!

SISTER! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!

THESE AREN'T OUR MEMORIES!

THAT'S IT. PAIGE, JONO-- WE'VE GOTTA GRAB HER.

NOW!

I THOUGHT YOU... MIGHT BE HUNGRY.

NOT BAD FOR A BOY FROM THE BARRIO, EH, BONITA?

WHATEVAH.

TZZPT

AAAAAAAAH!

TSSSSS

PROMISE

I'M SORRY, MONET--

--BUT WE NEED YOU TO REMEMBER.

GOOD.

GO HOME.

SEE IF I CARE...

DON'T FORGET TO SMILE.

VERY FUNNY.

OH, GOD, EV... PLEASE DON'T DIE ON ME... PLEASE!

AHHHHHH!

FWOOOSH

HOW DID I... WHAT...

:GASP:

SIS...TER...

:GASP:

I CAN'T... BREATHE...

MONET--

YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!

AH!

BACK OFF, YOU SHRIVELED UP PIECE OF KINDLING!

LISTEN, YOU WHEEZY, PRUNY, WAAAAAAAAY-TOO-NAKED POWER VAMP--

:GASP:

--IF YOU CAN'T BREATHE OR HANG IN OUR DIMENSION WITHOUT RIDING AROUND IN YOUR SISTER'S BODY--

--THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU GO BACK TO YOUR OWN DIMENSION!

NO--

:GAAAAAAAASP:

NOOOOOOOOO!

DUNNO IF I'VE EVER TOLD YOU THIS, M, BUT--

--YOUR BROTHER'S *THE ACTUAL WORST.*

MARIUS NEVER DID FAIL TO DISAPPOINT, DID HE?

XAVIER INSTITUTE. INFIRMARY.

...

STOP IT.

WHAT? I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

YOUR THOUGHTS ARE AS LOUD AS YOUR MOUTH.

I'M FINE.

MONET, YOU'VE BASICALLY BEEN AN AIRBNB FOR YOUR BROTHER *FOR WEEKS NOW.*

CAN YOU BLAME ME FOR THINKIN' SOMEONE NEEDS TO CHECK YOU OUT?

WHAT I *NEED* IS A MANICURE AND A BLOW-OUT.

IT'S JUST ONE NIGHT IN THE INFIRMARY, QUENTIN--

MY POWERS AREN'T WORKING, I'VE GOT A CUCKOO "EXAMINING" ME AND I'M STONE SOBER, BENJI--

I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!

AND NEITHER DO I, BUT HERE I AM...

LITTLE QUENTIN QUIRE SAVED YOUR LIFE...

WHO SAW THAT COMING?

I KNOW. AND HE *SACRIFICED* HIS PHOENIX SHARD TO DO IT.

IT'S CRAZY.

WELL, YOU MUST BE DOING *SOMETHING* RIGHT IF YOUR STUDENTS ARE WILLING TO EXCHANGE THAT KIND OF POWER FOR, WELL, *YOU.*

HOLD ON...WAS THAT A *COMPLIMENT?*

GOD, JUBILEE, ARE YOU REALLY *THAT* DESPERATE FOR APPROVAL?

AND TO THINK, I WAS *THIS CLOSE* TO BEING GLAD THAT YOU'RE BACK.

YOU'RE JUST WASTING *YOUR* TIME AND *MINE*, PHOEBE.

SURE, SURE.

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, QUIRE.

DUDE, YOU CAN'T EVEN TELEKINETICALLY LIFT A PEN ANYMORE. SHE'S JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY.

BENJI, SPOILER ALERT--I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE. *I'LL STILL END UP BECOMING THE PHOENIX.**

THE QUESTION IS *HOW?*

HEY, QUENTIN...

*AS SEEN IN WOLVERINE & THE X-MEN VOL. 1 #37! --DS

...I JUST WANTED TO *THANK YOU.* FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR ME TODAY AND--

AND YOU'LL TALK TO KITTY ABOUT KEEPING ME AROUND?

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!

MIGHT AS WELL, NOW THAT MY POWERS ARE ALL JACKED.

DOES THIS MEAN...YOU'RE STAYING?

I WAS GONE FOR *FOUR DAYS,* BENJI. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE IT WAS--

--FOREVER...

YEAH, YEAH.

SAME.

I GUESS.

"THIS IS ALL JUST... SO WEIRD."

IMAGINE HOW I FEEL, PAIGE.

ALL MY SHIRTS HAVE BABY DROOL ON THE SHOULDERS.

IT'S UNEXPECTED, BUT I GOTTA ADMIT, Y'ALL ARE CUTE TOGETHER.

IT'S ALL SHOGO.

WASN'T TALKIN' ABOUT YOU AND SHOGO.

OH...

RELAX, I THINK Y'ALL COULD BE GOOD FOR EACH OTHER.

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PULL ANY OF THAT SAD-BOY, SELF-SABOTAGE CRAP ON HER, ANYWAY.

AND, IF YOU DO, I'LL KILL YOU.

WHAT'D HE DO THIS TIME?

WHAT'D I DO?

NOTHIN' YET.

I'M GONNA CHECK ON MONET. I'LL SEE YOU TWO LATER.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

JUST... REMINISCING.

MOMMY?

HUG?

OH, SWEETHEART...

...YOU SURE DO GIVE THE **BEST** HUGS.

GOD, I'VE MISSED THIS.

DO YOU THINK THIS IS BECAUSE HE KNOWS I'M NOT A VAMPIRE ANYMORE?

LUV, BOY'S NOT EVEN TWO. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A VAMPIRE OR MUTANT IS. ALL SHOGO KNOWS IS YOU'RE HIS MUM.

WANNA COME OVER AND MAYBE...

...CRASH AT OURS TONIGHT?

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

WANNA GET PIZZA? OR MAYBE INDIAN?

NO, FOR YOU--

FOR SHOGO?

OHMYGOD OHMYGOD OHMYGOD-- I CAN EAT AGAIN!

I WASN'T SURE HOW TO CHECK YOUR PULSE WITHOUT ACTUALLY TOUCHING YOU, SO I TRIED PUTTING MY HAND ON YOUR CHEST, OVER YOUR SHIRT--

HAHA! SERIOUSLY?

IT'S NOT FUNNY! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DEAD--I WAS *SCARED.*

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.

IT'S JUST-- THIS IS PROBABLY GOING TO SOUND CRAZY, BUT--

--BEING HERE, AT THIS SCHOOL, WITH YOU--

--IT'S THE *SAFEST* I'VE FELT IN A REALLY LONG TIME.

I...

...REALLY WANT TO KISS YOU RIGHT NOW.

WHAT GOOD ARE YOU?

SO YOU'RE A FRY THIEF? GOOD TO KNOW.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO EAT THEMSELVES, BENJAMIN.

THE THING ABOUT THE WAY REFN COMPOSES HIS SHOTS IS--

SHHH. GOSLING'S ON SCREEN.

FAIR.

CENTRAL PARK.
A FEW DAYS LATER...

MR. SQUIRREL, COULD YOU PLEASE HANG THIS FOR ME? THANK YOU.

HEY, LIN.

YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHAT YOUR DEAL WITH THE RAT WAS...

DON'T WORRY, TREVOR. I'LL HANDLE IT.

OH, OKAY...

BUT WHEN THEY COME, I PROMISE I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.

COOL, COOL...

WAIT-- *WHAT?!*

SO THERE ARE *FIVE* COLOR CARDS?

YES. AND THERE ARE ALSO COLOR*LESS* CARDS--

SO THERE ARE *SIX* COLOR CARDS--

EXCEPT COLORLESS SPECIFICALLY *ISN'T* A COLOR.

THIS WHY YOU WERE NEVER INTO ME, BENJI? YOU'RE INTO HALF-ASIAN NERDS LIKE OL' HINDSIGHT HERE?

GOOD NEWS, QUENTIN, YOUR POWERS MAY HAVE WEAKENED, BUT YOUR EGO'S AS STRONG AS EVER.

HINDSIGHT?

ACTUALLY, HINDSIGHT'S NOT A BAD NAME...

SAYS THE GUY WHO REFUSED TO GO BY A CODE-NAME.

BECAUSE BENJI DEEDS IS *ENDEARING* WHILE NATHANIEL CARVER SOUNDS LIKE AN '80s B-MOVIE SERIAL KILLER.

GOTTA GIVE IT TO QUENTIN...

...HINDSIGHT'S KINDA DOPE.

ROXY!

YOU'RE EARLY!

EARLY TO...?

SURPRISE!

BON VOYAGE ROXY!

POP

POP

POP

POP

POP

POP

POP

POP

GUYS, I'M JUST GOING HOME FOR A WHILE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M LEAVING FOREVER.

I'LL BE BACK.

SO YOU SAY.

I'M SERIOUS.

I'M JUST WORKING ON GETTING...COMFORTABLE BEING MYSELF AROUND HUMANS.

BESIDES, I'M STILL TALKING TO PAIGE AND FIGURING OUT WHAT I WANT, SO I'LL BE BACK.

ROXY!

WE MADE THESE COOKIES FOR YOU TO EAT ON THE PLANE.

COOKIE!

THANKS.

THERE WOULD'VE BEEN MORE, BUT EVER SINCE I GOT ALL DE-VAMPED, I'VE JUST BEEN EATING *EVERYTHING*...

JUBILEE...SORRY, I WAS A...YOU KNOW.
HEY. I'VE NEVER APOLOGIZED FOR BEING FEISTY.
AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU.
WHAT'S THIS?
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHIN'. IN CASE YOU GET COLD.
AND A REMINDER THAT...YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
THANK YOU.
YOU'VE DONE WELL, JUBILEE.
THEY'RE GOOD KIDS, KITTY...
...AND I DON'T THINK WE CAN TURN OUR BACKS ON THEM AND ASK THEM TO LEAVE.
JUBILEE, WE DISCUSSED THIS. PRESSURING TEEN MUTANTS TO RISK THEIR LIVES AND FIGHT WHEN THEY'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO...IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
KITTY, I KNOW BEING AN X-MAN'S DANGEROUS, BUT SO'S BEING A MUTANT--
WE'RE PROTECTING THEM. THEY'RE JUST KIDS.

--AND I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD JUST KICK THEM INTO BATTLE AND HOPE FOR THE BEST, BUT...

...MAYBE WE NEED TO CONSIDER WHY *WE* STAYED.

AND THEN MAYBE LET *THEM* DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY STAY OR GO.

YOU'VE GIVEN THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT.

YEAH, WELL, AS I GET OLDER, I REALIZE...

...WE DON'T ALWAYS GET TO CHOOSE THE FAMILY WE'RE BORN WITH...

"...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T MAKE ONE FOR OURSELVES."

BON VOYAGE

THE END.

GENERATION X

FINAL SEMESTER NOTES

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A little over a year and a half ago, my then editor, Daniel Ketchum, asked me if I was interested in pitching a teen X-book. Back then, I had no idea that I'd get to resurrect the GENERATION X title, create a new half-Korean X-character, write THREE very different and fun romances, restore my beloved Jubilation Lee to her sparky mutant status or fall madly in love with Trevor Hawkins, Lin Li, Roxy Washington, Quentin Quire, Benjamin Deeds and Nathaniel Carver, but here we are. And I'm going to miss all of it, terribly.

I've joked that the quick pitch for GENERATION X is "D-list teen mutants run amok," but the truth is that I've always seen it more like "reject X-kids must learn how to deal with their feelings of inadequacy, self-doubt, disconnection, self-hate, trauma and somehow come together as a family." Basically, it's everything I thought was at the heart of the original GENERATION X. And I wanted to replicate that heart because of how important books like GEN X and UNCANNY X-MEN were to me when I was a teenager. They gave me misfits to fall in love with at a time when I didn't know how to love myself and stories I could relate to that helped me see myself in something fantastic. So with this newest iteration of GENERATION X, it was important to me that we try to do the same for someone else. And I'd like to think we did.

And I say "we," because this book wouldn't exist if Amilcar Pinna, Felipe Sobreiro, Clayton Cowles, Terry Dodson, Rachel Dodson, W. Scott Forbes, Martín Morazzo, Alberto Alburquerque, Eric Koda, Roberto Poggi, Jay David Ramos, Chris Sotomayor and Nolan Woodard hadn't worked their tail feathers off to make things happen. Writers may get the ball rolling with scripts, but pencilers, inkers, colorists and letterers are the ones who really bring comics to life, guys. Trust me on this. I've been on both sides of this equation.

And just for a second, I'd like to single out Amilcar and Felipe in particular. From our introductory emails, to character studies, fashion sheets, color palette discussions and last-second patches and color notes, there wasn't one second when they didn't put 1,000% of their hearts into this book. Their pages both gave me the fortitude to keep writing into the wee hours of the night and pushed me to be a better writer. Amilcar and Felipe, I love you guys so much, you're both so talented, and I'm going to miss you both so dearly!

Also, to Daniel Ketchum, Darren Shan and Chris Robinson, my incredible editors, I just wanna say: Thank you for putting up with me when I was hyper, frustrated, pissy, demanding and extra as hell about lettering notes. You guys helped shape this book in more ways than people know, so I'mma tell them. It's a lot! Thank you! <3

And lastly, I'd like to thank all of you for reading Generation X. I'd been warned early on that X-fans could be a prickly bunch, but I gotta tell you guys, more than anything I've been impressed. The incredible outpouring of love you've shown for us and the book has been probably the most surprising and overwhelming aspect of this experience, and I just want you to know that we've all appreciated it. So, thank you.

Christina Strain

I remember reading RUNAWAYS back in the day (with amazing art by Adrian Alphona and Christina Strain) and thinking that would be so cool if I got a chance to work on something like that! Well, I guess sometimes cool things happen, because last year when Daniel Ketchum and Christina Strain invited me to work on GENERATION X, it was such an honor, not to mention it was fun! My thanks to Daniel Ketchum, Christina Strain, Darren Shan, Mark Paniccia and everyone involved with this project! Cheers to Felipe Sobreiro who did the colors and Clayton Cowles on lettering! Also, thanks to all GEN X fans who supported this book! Thanks, guys!

Amilcar Pinna

ZONE